

## *The President's Daily Brief*

*12 November 1969*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

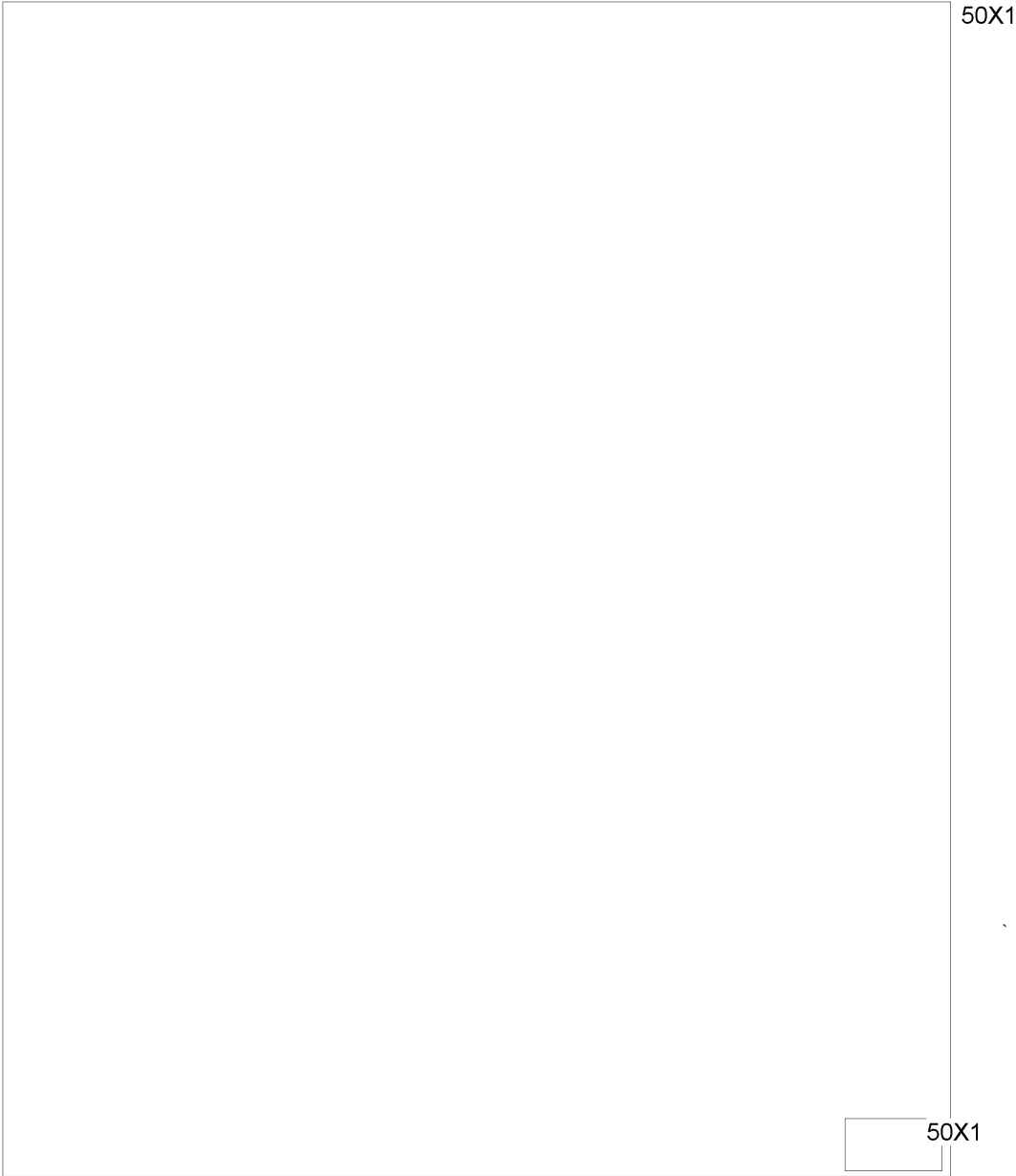
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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets are developing a new instrumentation ship that will significantly improve their ability to communicate with their spacecraft. (*Page 1*)

With the release of some long-detained overseas Chinese in Rangoon, the Burmese Government has removed a major irritant in relations with Communist China. (*Page 2*)

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SOVIET UNION

Recent satellite photography shows a new instrumentation ship under construction that will significantly increase the ability of Soviets to communicate with spacecraft. The ship, being built at Leningrad, is half again as big as the Vladimir Komarov, the largest Soviet instrumentation ship now in operation.

Analysis of the photography indicates that the new ship will carry four large antennas, two of which are 12 meters in diameter, and at least one of the other two 25 meters. (The largest shipborne antennas now in use, on both our Apollo support ships and on the Komarov, are nine meters.)

The new ship probably could not be ready for service before late 1970. It will most likely be stationed in the Western Hemisphere.

*From this area, the new ship would significantly improve Moscow's round-the-clock communication with spacecraft. The USSR currently uses 25-meter antennas in the Crimea and the Far East for lunar and deep space missions, but these are not well enough located to provide 24-hour coverage.*

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BURMA - COMMUNIST CHINA

The Burmese have acted to remove a major irritant in their relations with China. Last Sunday they released 27 overseas Chinese political detainees, some of whom had been held since the riots in Rangoon two years ago. These riots were provoked by the propaganda activities of Chinese Communist Embassy personnel.

For several weeks Burmese officials have professed to see signs of a thaw in Peking's attitude on mutual relations. Last week, Ne Win promised to try to improve relations in his annual policy address before the government party conference.

*With the release of the overseas Chinese, Peking may now feel free to restore closer diplomatic relations.*

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*Any real Sino-Burmese rapprochement of course will require the Chinese to back away from their support of Burmese Communist insurgency, something Peking as yet has shown little interest in doing.*

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